

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract, a copy of which, printed on a separate page, accompanies this response:

A method for applying a finishing agent to non-woven fabric during production of the non-woven fabric, wherein an apparatus for forming a non-woven fabric is provided; a web of non-woven fabric is substantially continuous formed; the non-woven fabric is passed from the apparatus for forming a non-woven fabric to a finishing unit; and a finishing agent is applied to the non-woven fabric as an in-line process in the production. In a preferred embodiment, the non-woven fabric leaves the forming apparatus with a moisture content greater than 10% and is passed to the finishing unit while maintaining the moisture content at greater than 10%.